



# The Minuteman



Volume 13 Number 5

The OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER of the  
MINUTEMAN REPEATER ASSOCIATION

May 1985

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

- ANNUAL MEETING** Election of Officers and Directors
- DATE** Tuesday, May 21, 1985
- PLACE** Campion Center, Concord Road, Weston (see map)
- TIME** 7:30 PM, Doors open at 7:00 PM for socializing
- SPEAKER** Data not available at Press Time.  
To be announced on repeaters
- RAFFLE** Buy your tickets for SEVERAL assorted raffle prizes
- FREE DOOR PRIZE** IC 3AT 220 walkie. Must be a paid-up member and be present to win.
- REFRESHMENTS** Free coffee and doughnuts

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

My final press deadline has arrived and it is with much emotion that I say farewell as President. These three years have come and gone so swiftly that I feel as though I have just gotten started in the job, but organizations need change and with it, fresh approaches and views.

These years have been extremely rewarding to me and any accomplishments made would not have been possible if I did not have the direction set by the administration of George Downs, W1CT, and the close support given me by both our Officers and Directors, and the Trustees and Technical people who have worked so hard to accomplish the growth and technical advancement of the MMRA. I also give my gratitude to the MMRA members who support us and without whose loyalty we could not have grown to a membership of over 500 persons.

When I entered my first term as President, the Quincy Repeater 146.07/67 was without a permanent home, but since that time we have an excellent location for this machine and added a 220 MHZ repeater at the same site. We also added a 450 MHZ repeater at Marlboro, which is one of the finest in New England and have another 220 MHZ repeater at our 2 Meter Marlboro site which we host. The two Meter Arlington to Weston link is now complete for installation and testing and will be on line this Summer. We are also exploring an alternate site in the general Marlboro area which may be a "super site."

We have not been able to accomplish all our goals in the time designated, but we did engage in concentrating on emphasizing the repeater-a-year major improvement concept.

I am leading up to the introduction of your Presidential Nominee, Earle Benson, W1HXF. Earle has been an active HAM for many years and has been a Board Member who has always taken a keen interest in both the technical and social aspects of HAM radio.

Earle has led the way with the obtaining of guest speakers, the arrangement of the membership meetings and the thankless job of providing the coffee and donuts and clean up at the meetings along with his good wife Evelyn, KA1BBN whose unexcelled work as Secretary is known to most of us.

Further, his background as a self-made businessman and attention to detail and follow through give him the attributes necessary to make our organization grow and advance.

The composition of your new Board of Directors is quite interesting, because we have people with administration qualifications as well as technical and computer expertise.

Earle has expressed to me just some of his ideas that he would like to accomplish as your leader and they are quite exciting.

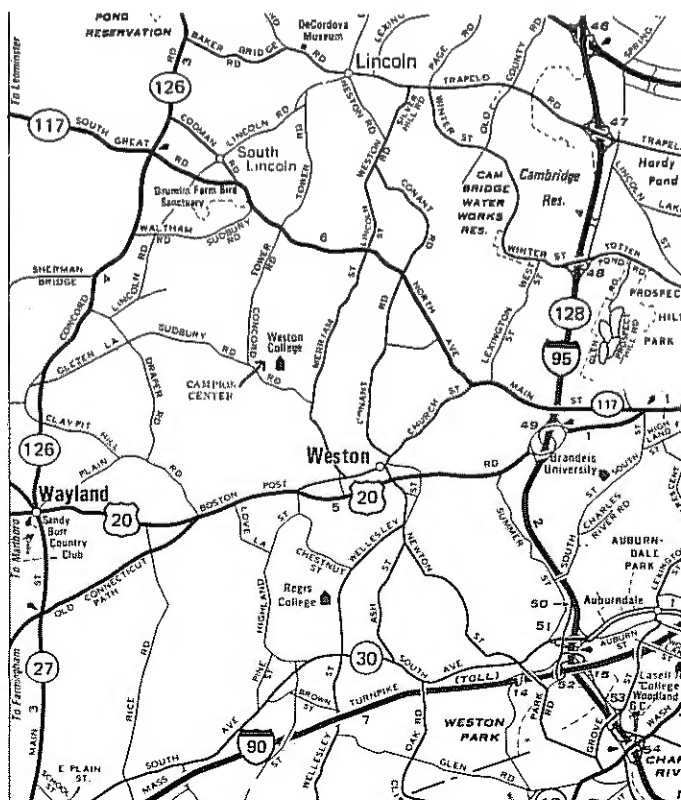
I will remain on the Board as a Director as provided in the By Laws and welcome this opportunity to concentrate on a few areas. The emotion I expressed in the beginning of this column is not the sadness of a goodbye, but rather an eagerness to get going on new assignments.

I urge all of you to support Earle and the new Board at least as well as you have supported me during these three past years and give them the opportunity to work with all of you.

We have a great door prize for members who appear in person at our May meeting (details in this newsletter). This was done to help in our efforts to populate our 220 MHZ repeaters, stimulate interest in this band, and to increase attendance.

I hope to see you all at the meeting.

De, KA1AL



## EDITOR'S CORNER

This is the last issue of The Minuteman for this club year. Once again I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed articles or other newsworthy items to the cause. A word of thanks also to WA1YRQ who puts it all together for me.

This has been another banner year for the MMRA. Membership is up and our financial situation is in great shape. I'm sure that this fine record will continue in the future.

I have enjoyed serving with Al Kunian and the other fine officers for the last three years. A better group you could not find. Earle Benson managed to twist my arm sufficiently to convince me to stay on as treasurer next year. I wonder why nobody else wants that job??

One last thought for the year which is similar to my first thought of the year back in September. Where have all of you gone? A scan of our six repeaters even during commuting hours will show that the percent of use must be about 5%. It is a sad commentary on our organization of over 500 hams that there is not more use of the frequencies. Let's hear some new calls on the repeaters this summer. See you in September, as the song goes.

KB1DY

## 24 MHZ COMING SOON

From all indications, the new WARC band at 24.890-24.990 MHz will be open to hams soon. While the band will not be exclusively ours until July 1, 1989, we will be able to operate providing we do not interfere with the services that presently use the band.

Both the W5YI Report and Dave Sumner, K1ZZ in QST have reported on the fact that 24 Megs may be operational soon. Watch the ham magazines for details or tune in W1AW for the latest bulletins.

Editor

Anyone interested in pursuing packet radio or would like to form a group to get active in it should contact one of the club's officers. As many of you remember, we had an outstanding demonstration of packet radio put on by the NEPRA group two years ago. At that time it was foreign to most of us. Perhaps we could repeat that demo next year. This is a good means of using computers and ham radio at the same time. Gee - I never thought I'd ever say something like that.

Editor

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Period: March 26, 1985 to April 24, 1985

| EXPENSES       |          | INCOME |          |
|----------------|----------|--------|----------|
| 01-61          | \$ 38.89 | Dues   | \$276.66 |
| 115-715        | 656.56   |        |          |
| 22-82          | 51.08    |        |          |
| 450-Marlboro   | 23.10    |        |          |
| Treasurer      | 9.12     |        |          |
| Meetings       | 110.86   |        |          |
| Total expenses | \$889.41 |        |          |

Year to Date: May 22, 1984 to April 24, 1985

| EXPENSES       |            | INCOME                |            |
|----------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| 01-61          | \$ 650.74  | Dues                  | \$9,347.50 |
| 07-67          | 843.15     | Raffle                | 479.00     |
| 115-715        | 950.79     | Advertising           | 60.00      |
| 22-82          | 975.57     | Misc. Income          | 71.65      |
| 220-Quincy     | 61.66      | Total Income          | \$9,976.15 |
| 450-Marlboro   | 310.89     |                       |            |
| Treasurer      | 38.63      | Balance -             |            |
| Secretary      | 352.82     | as of 5/21/84         | \$2,143.81 |
| Newsletter     | 1,364.20   | Total Income          | 9,976.15   |
| Meetings       | 995.86     |                       | 12,119.96  |
| Education      | 97.91      | Less Total Expenses   | 6,642.22   |
| Total expenses | \$6,642.22 | Balance as of 4/24/85 | \$5,477.74 |

KB1DY

## BLUE RIBBON CORNER

Big BLUE RIBBONS to the hams who responded to the short-notice call for assistance with the communications at the Arlington Patriots Day Parade on April 15th. With Tom as Net Control using the call N1AVP, the progress of the parade was transmitted smoothly with the help of Ken KALETM, Al KALAL, Bob KINON, Hugo KICKS, Mac KIDLIN, Paul WLYTK, Frank WJDO, Dottie NIBHA, Steve KLYSN, Fran KALGKM, Gerry KIGOI, and Al KALAKD. Good job, well done!!!

## AREA HAMS INVOLVED IN BOSTON MARATHON

The 89th running of the BAA Marathon, from Hopkinton to Boston, was coordinated, as usual, by a host of volunteers. Included among these were several groups of hams, including representatives from the MMRA, the Wellesley ARC, the Framingham ARC, the Data General ARC, and the group on 145.23. There were several operations in parallel, each dealing with a particular facet of the race. For instance, while one crew was monitoring the busses taking runners to Hopkinton, another was working with the Red Cross along the route. In Hopkinton itself, there were two nets working, one on the DG machine (145.27) for general administration and crowd control, and the other on 224.24 for control of the spectator busses and parking operation.

Hopkinton, with a population of about 7,000, annually has to deal with an influx of 8,000 runners and another 30,000 spectators, for the start of the race. For six years running, hams have volunteered their services to the Hopkinton Marathon Committee, whose job it is to see that the town gets through the day reasonably unscathed. On race day, activity begins just after sunrise, and peaks at noon, when the race begins. Interestingly, by 1:30 in the afternoon, the town is once again its quiet, sleepy self. Until next year.

On behalf of the Hopkinton Marathon Committee, K1RLY extends thanks to the following hams who participated this year: KA1AXY, N1CTY, KA1GLE, K1ODW, AK1J, N1DDK, KD1T, N1BRM, WA1AGQ, WB1FZF, and N1AHA. To these, and to all the others who helped out that day, congratulations on a job well done.

de K1RLY

## HERE AND THERE

## ASTRONAUT TONY ENGLAND'S HAM MISSION

Ham Astronaut Tony England's, W0ORE, "51F Spacelab 2" flight of the space shuttle "Challenger" is now set for July 8th. This date depends, however, on the ability of Kennedy Space Center technicians to replace approximately 4,200 thermal protection tiles on the orbiter.

England is scheduled to not only operate Owen Garriott's hand-held radio in space, but also to try his hand at ten meter slow-scan ATV.

Radio contacts will consist mostly of schedules with school or amateur radio clubs. Tony suggested that groups or individuals interested in contacting him should contact the ARRL since they were acting as his coordinator. "About two months before launch - about the middle of May - I'll have a good flight plan and I'll work with the ARRL and see how to best fit everybody in."

Tony said that Spacelab 3 would be going up before Spacelab 2. I was also told that Owen Garriott, W5LFL, would be going back in space aboard "EOM"... an observation mission, but that it did not look like that would take place this year.

## W5YI Report

American "Woodpecker" coming? The United States is due to change their DEW-line surveillance radars to state-of-the-art OTH (over the horizon) systems next year. OTH systems have a 5,800 mile range and operate in the HF bands between 5 and 28 MHz. Radar signals reflect back from the ionosphere thousands of miles away giving OTH radar ten times the range of present day systems. Propagation is assessed by computers which shift the radar's frequency to the most favorable spot within its six hf bands. The USSR has been using OTH radar for some time as any DX operator can attest to.

Question for W2ILM: Why was MMRA incorporated when it was organized way back in 1971?

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

|        |        |                 |
|--------|--------|-----------------|
| NLAA   | Dick   | Lynnfield       |
| AGLD   | Dale   | Wayland         |
| NLDGL  | Bob    | Framingham      |
| NLDIZ  | Dennis | Dover           |
| NLDJB  | Jamie  | Newton          |
| WELGPW | Keith  | Marlboro        |
| KOLH   | Peter  | Harvard         |
| KALIYJ | Dave   | Hallowell, ME   |
| KALKU  | Fred   | Auburndale      |
| WALLGO | Ed     | Framingham      |
| WALLKF | Steve  | Framingham      |
| WLNWI  | Bill   | Needham         |
| WLSTI  | Brad   | Holliston       |
| KULW   | Jack   | N. Andover      |
| KLWVY  | Bruce  | Wellesley       |
| WLYIH  | George | N. Kingston, RI |

## RENEWALS OF FORMER MEMBERS

|        |      |        |
|--------|------|--------|
| NIAKM  | 1345 | Ken    |
| KBLAT  | 1423 | Rick   |
| NLAZM  | 1370 | Tom    |
| WLFNV  | 0962 | Art    |
| AJLH   | 1435 | Fred   |
| WLHYV  | 1340 | Alan   |
| KLIGD  | 1476 | Chuck  |
| WALJEV | 1002 | Bill   |
| KLHWH  | 0643 | Mel    |
| KLODW  | 0606 | Bob    |
| K2TJZ  | 0424 | Curtis |
| WLYJI  | 0413 | Iloyd  |

## CORRECTIONS TO PREVIOUS LISTINGS

listed as ABLBH should be KBLBH  
 listed as KALLZG should be KALLZJ  
 KALKOU 1655 8511 Ron is incorrectly  
 listed as KALKOU

NEW CALL SIGNS: KALDXW is now NLDLN  
 KLLJN is now NLDKZ

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

*Copy not available at Press Time*

| REGISTRATION RENEWAL FEES   |   |
|---|---|
| TWO (2) YEAR REGISTRATION RENEWALS  | ANNUAL REGISTRATION RENEWALS  |
| \$24.00 - Unreserved (regular 6 figure plates)  | \$32.00 - Distinctive Initial (vanity plates)   |
| \$44.00 - Reserved (plates with 5 characters or less)   | \$15.00 - Motorcycles   |
| \$40.00 - For passenger vehicles that are used commercially, the commercial fees must apply (\$7.00 per 1,000 lbs., with a minimum of \$20.00 per year) | \$22.00 - Amateur radio operator  |
|   | \$20.00 - Minimum for commercial vehicles (\$7.00 per 1,000 lbs. or fraction thereof) |
|   | \$ 6.00 - Trailers (each 1,000 lbs. or fraction thereof)                              |
| FIVE (5) YEAR REGISTRATION RENEWAL  | \$25.00 - Auto Home (when assigned "Camper plates")                                   |
| \$150.00 - Semi trailers  |   |

For other fees, please call any Registry office, your insurance company, broker or agent.

The new mod that EVERYBODY has....

145.695 MHz

The ALERT FREQUENCY

## NASA BACKS OFF ON HAM IN SPACE EFFORT

While the Tony England (W00RE) and John-David Bartoe (W4NTZ) amateur radio in space mission is still on, it has been drastically scaled back! Lift off is scheduled for between the ninth and fifteenth of July.

During late March, Astronauts Dr. Tony England and Owen Garriott, W5LFL, called on NASA's Payload Integration Manager at JSC. While Garriott will not take part in the 51F spaceflight, he is very interested, of course, in the ham radio aspects of the flight. Garriott is himself due to go back in space next year.

They were advised that there were no orbiter modifications planned whatsoever to accommodate amateur radio equipment and that any modifications made would have to be paid for. The cost is prohibitive to the amateur community. It had been tentatively planned to house a ten meter antenna in the payload bay. With this not possible, the slow-scan experiment on ten meters had to be scrapped as well as the two meter to ten meter automatic repeat mode.

It has now been decided that the same window antenna that was flown on the Garriott W5LFL STS-9 mission will be used. The amateur radio modes that will be available to England and Bartowe will be the handheld transceiver transmit/receive mode that Garriott used plus a slow-scan television downlink only on two meters. The equipment will be a donated Robot Research Video Transceiver plus the Motorola talkie that Garriott used on STS-9.

Transmitted will either be spacecraft video, pictures taken with an on-board TV camera or a still picture "logo" of some type. Bartowe, a civilian payload specialist, has said that he will participate in the ham effort in any way he can.

AMSAT is still working on determining which two meter frequencies will be used for the slow-scan effort. Options are being considered by the hams at NASA on how to improve the amateur radio experiments on board the England flight now that a ten meter antenna will not be available.

Even the two meter ham operation will be very limited due to time and space constraints. It is unknown just how much operating time Tony will get since the window that houses the amateur antenna must be shared with other shuttle experiments.

Tony will not be having a lot of general amateur contacts. He will instead focus on communications with clubs and schools. This is being coordinated by the ARRL.

A firm flight plan will be available next month. At that time, Tony will be able to schedule his ham operating time. I was also told that Roy Neal, K6DUE, of NBC News was doing a good job working behind the scenes on the 51F ham radio in space effort.

W5YI Report

## SILENT KEY

Del Schiavo, a former Boston truck driver, died unexpectedly in Lehigh Acres, Florida on March 11 at the age of 60. Del was a driver with Teamsters Local 25 of Boston for 40 years before retiring. He was born in Charlestown, Mass., and lived in Weymouth before moving to Florida in 1982. Del was a long-time member of MMRA and was a Control Operator on the Quincy machine.

## ABOUT THE CENTERFOLD

Today's Centerfold is the latest listing of Autopatch Emergency Numbers. Cut it along the dotted line as indicated. It is already folded in the middle, so all you have to do is fold in the ends toward the center like a book. It is designed to be slightly smaller than U.S. currency and carried in your wallet, along with your \$50 and \$100 bills, everywhere except in the shower. With the proliferation of walkies in use, this list can be mighty convenient in making emergency phone calls.

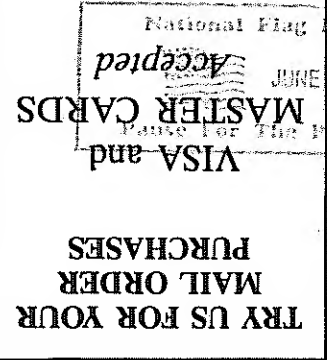
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